Health Forum in its volume 10 released on 11.7.2006 has published an article 'Human Resources for Health in India's National Rural Health Mission-Dimensions and Challenges'. The article mentioned that nearly 700 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are currently without doctors. The existing Community Health Centres (CHCs) have high shortfall of specialists manpower, such as obstetricians and hynecologists (56%), pediatricians (67%), surgeions (56%) and medical specialist (59%) with no sanctioned provisions of anesthetists.

Outpatient services are being strenthened through regular recruitment/appointment of doctors/paramedicals on contractual basis, posting of AYUSH doctors, local recruitment of Nurses/Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), multiskilling and training of doctors in specialized skills, running facilities with the help of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) taken up in all States of the country.

Success of Universal Immunisation Programme

†2350. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Universal Immunisation Programme in the States has been successful;

(b) if so, whether the mortaility rate has declined as a result thereof; and

(c) if not, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The infant mortality rate has declined from 66 per 1000 live birth in 2001 to 58 per 1000 live birth in 2004.

Cardio Cadre in RML Hospital

2351. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether how many doctors belonging to cardio cadre are available in Delhi together with their details;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Cardiology Department, RML Hospital, New Delhi is being headed by a doctor not belonging to cardio cadre;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to post a doctor belonging to cardio cadre as head, Cardiology Department, RML Hospital, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) There is no Cardio cadre in the CHS. This service comprises of 4 sub-cadres *viz.* GDMOs. Teaching Specialists, Non-Teaching Specialists and Public Health Specialists. In so far as Delhi is concerned, seven cardiologists (2 from teaching and 5 from non-teaching) are posted in Delhi. Currently, RML Hospital is being headed by a doctor of SAG level belonging to the Speciality of Medicine having qualification of DM (Cardiology).

User charges from APL people

2352. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to evolve a mechanism for levying user charges on people Above Poverty Line (APL) for availing health services from Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any communication in this regard has been sent to the State Government; and

(d) if so, the response of the States in the matter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No proposal is under consideration of the Government to evolve a mechanism for levying user charges on people Above poverty Line for availing health services from the Government. However, under the National Rural Health Mission, Rogi Kalyan Samitis are being set up in various facilities to provide sustainable quality care, promote accountability and people's participation. Under the guidelines issued in this connection the Rogi Kalyan Samitis are free to levy such user charges